

Northfleet Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1944

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended December, 1944.

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Medical Officer of Health).

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Public Health conditions of the district for the year ended December, 1944.

The report is, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, again presented in an abbreviated form this year.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for continued interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor J. HAYNES (Chairman)

„ S. LAWRENCE

„ T. S. WHITE

„ Mrs. G. S. LANE, J.P.

„ Mrs. B. E. BARKER

„ Mrs. V. G. WESTCOTT, J.P.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

All members of the Health Committee, together with the following who attended in a consultative capacity :—

Mesdames HUMPHREY, HUNTLEY, SMITH,
WHITCHELO and WHITE.

Clerk :

Mr. W. G. FUTCHER.

Solicitor :

Mr. F. W. JONES.

Medical Officer of Health :

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Maternity and Child Welfare Officer :

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspectors :

J. S. COWPLAND, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.

*G. H. SUGGITT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, Cert. A.R.P.S.

A. BARNETT, M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.

Health Visitors :

* Miss M. E. CHICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.

Mrs. L. R. G. WATSON, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Temporary).

Miss E. MARTIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.

*Resigned January, 1944.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (as constituted at 30th June, 1935) acres (.393 Tidal Water)	.....	3,770
Population (Census 1931)	.....	16,080
„ (Estimated 1944)	.....	15,950
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1944)	.....	5,001
Number of new houses erected year ended 31st December	.....	Nil.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	.....	3,723
Rateable value	.....	£111,347
Sum represented by a penny rate	.....	£463

BIRTH RATE. During the year there were 336 births, equivalent to an annual birth rate of 21.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

INFANT MORTALITY. Seven deaths occurred among children under one year of age, which is equivalent to 20.8 per 1,000 live births, as against 46 for the whole country.

STILLBIRTHS. Male 4, Female 6, Total 10. Rate per 1,000 live births, 29.7.

NUMBER OF DEATHS.—167.

DEATH RATE. The general death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 10.4, which can be considered satisfactory.

	Total	M.	F.		
Live. Legitimate	329	174	155	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	21.0
„ Illegitimate	7	5	2		
Stillbirths	10	4	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	28.9
Deaths	167	97	70	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.5

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	20.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....	15.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.....	285.7
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	19
„ „ Measles (all ages)	.....	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.....	0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT, 1944.

Causes of Death.							Male.	Female.
	All causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	97	70
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
5	Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	3
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
8	Syphilitic diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
9	Influenza	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—
10	Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1
11	Infantile Paralysis, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
12	Ac : inf : enceph :	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
13	Cancer of mouth, etc. : (m) uterus (f)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	—
15	Cancer of breast	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	5
16	Cancer of other sites	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	5
17	Diabetes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	9
19	Heart disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	18
20	Other disease of circ. system	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	3
21	Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	7
22	Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	1
23	Other resp. diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	7
24	Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
26	Appendicitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	2
27	Other digestive diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3
28	Nephritis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	—
29	Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
31	Premature birth	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—
32	Congenital malformation : birth injury, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1
33	Suicide	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1
34	Road traffic accidents	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
35	Other violent causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	3
36	All other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	5

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1944.

PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON WEEKLY AND QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns Populations including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Adminis- trative County London.	Northfleet.
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
Births :—					
Live	17.6	20.3	20.9	15.0	21.0
Still	0.5	0.64	0.61	0.42	0.62
Deaths :—					
All causes	116.	13.7	12.4	15.7	10.4
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.00
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08	0.12
Notifications :—					
Scarlet Fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57	1.06
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31	0.18
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	—
Erysipelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37	0.25
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93	0.50
Cerebral Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06	—
Measles	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98	4.26
Whooping Cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90	0.75
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	46	52	44	61	20.8
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.....	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1	0.00
Rates per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still)					
(a) NOTIFICATIONS :					
Puerperal Fever)					
Puerperal Pyrexia)	10.34	13.13	9.25	14.14	0.00
(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
	No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Others	
England & Wales	0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25	
Northfleet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Midwives.

This service is under the control of the County Council who have appointed the following as County Midwives :—

Miss W. E. WHITAKER	8, Park Avenue)	Tel.: Gravesend 4079
Mrs. F. E. PLUMB	8, Park Avenue)	
Mrs. A. R. BROWNRIDGE	27, Cobham Street, Gravesend.	Tel. : 1686 (District Organiser).
Mrs. D. M. KEMP	67, Broomfield Road, Swanscombe.	
		Tel. : Gravesend 4121.

Other midwife practising in the district :—

Mrs. F. E. HOLLOWAY	43, Mitchell Avenue.
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MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Average weekly attendance at the Centre	146
Total attendances of children during the year	.....	.....	.....	6,675
New attendances	.....	.....	.....	253

Infant Welfare Centres.

(a) Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year :—				
(i) By children under 1 year of age	.....	.....	.....	3,283
(ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	.....	.....	.....	566
Total	.....	.....	.....	3,849
(b) Total number of children who attended the Centres for the first time during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were :—				
(i) Under 1 year of age	.....	.....	.....	244
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	.....	.....	.....	12
(c) Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year were :—				
(i) Under 1 year of age	.....	.....	.....	233
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	.....	.....	.....	214

Ante-Natal Clinics.

(a) Number of clinics provided and maintained by the Council	.....	.....	.....	1
(b) Total number of attendances by expectant mothers at all clinics during the year	.....	.....	.....	108
(c) Total number of expectant mothers who attended the clinics during the year	.....	.....	.....	40

MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION IN LOCAL HOSPITALS, Etc.

In view of the increasing desire on the part of women to have their babies in hospitals and nursing homes, and allowing for a length of stay of not less than 14 days, there will need to be a considerable addition to the pre-war number of maternity beds and this will allow for a certain amount of latitude in the re-organisation of the existing maternity units. The number of maternity beds needed must vary with the size of the population, the birth-rate per thousand, and the number of houses in the district which are unsuitable for domiciliary confinements.

	Gravesend.	Northfleet.	Swanscombe.	Total.
Population 1944	35,080	15,950	6,756	57,780
No. of births 1944	725	336	129	1,080
Maternity beds 1944	Gravesend Hospital		18	
	Local Nursing Homes		19	
		Total	37	

Population per bed in local Nursing Homes and Hospital 1,560

Population per bed in local Hospital 3,210

Northfleet women have to seek admission to hospitals and homes in Dartford, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and even further afield.

A Maternity Service should be **local** in character, and there is undoubtedly a need for additional accommodation.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

There are no Maternity or Nursing Homes in the area under the control of the Council.

Nursing in the Home.—Through the Northfleet Diamond Jubilee Samaritan Fund, the services of one trained nurse are available for general nursing. The Fund is an entirely voluntary organisation. During 1944 the Nurse paid 2,625 visits to the Sick Poor in Northfleet. Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. P. Grant.

Maternal Mortality.—The County Medical Officer of Health co-operates with me in undertaking any necessary investigations in connection with maternal deaths. The following arrangements have been made by the Council:—

- (1) Difficult cases of labour are admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.
 - (2) Cases of Puerperal Sepsis are admitted to Bow Arrow Hospital.
 - (3) Consultant Gynaecologist available if required.
 - (4) Ante-natal and other clinics provided by the Council.
- These are sufficient for the needs of the district.

Ante-Natal Services.—The Council have established an ante-natal clinic but attendances, despite every encouragement, do not reach the standard which the service deserves.

Post Natal Services.—In the course of her duties the Health Visitor advises any mother who is not progressing satisfactorily to attend for post-natal examination

Such cases are examined at the ante-natal session and the number does not warrant the institution of separate sessions.

Ancillary Services :—

Home Helps.—A scheme for the provision of Home Helps and Domestic Helps was introduced in the latter part of the year.

Dental Treatment.—It will be remembered that the Council have entered into an agreement with the Kent Education Committee for the utilisation of their dental service for the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age.

Records.—The records maintained in relation to the Council's maternity and child welfare services are satisfactory in every respect and are at the disposal of any medical practitioner who may desire to consult them with reference to any particular case.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

The following action has been taken :—

- (1) Space has been provided on the notification of births cards to obtain information as to weight at birth (when this is less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).
- (2) Every effort is made to provide a separate bedroom for the mother and infant.
- (3) The Health Visitor and Midwives have given particular attention to the babies.
- (4) Home Helps are available.
- (5) Institutional care is available for some selected cases at the local hospital.
- (6) Special forms of transport available to convey babies to hospital.
- (7) The closest liaison is maintained between the hospital and Welfare Authority.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

A Conference was held at County Hall, Maidstone, in March, and the following proposals were adopted :—

(1) That the medical officers of the respective welfare authorities be responsible for ensuring close co-operation between officers of the authority, particularly the health visitors, and the voluntary organisations concerned with the problem.

(2) That approval be given to the appointment of an additional Health Visitor to the Headquarters staff of the County Council, to assist in administration and co-ordination and with the investigation of special cases, the officer to have, if practicable, special qualifications and training in this type of social work. Where the services of this officer are utilised by autonomous welfare authorities, they be asked to contribute towards her salary and expenses on the basis of user during each financial year.

(3) That wherever possible the expectant mother should be persuaded to make known her circumstances to her parents and, if the home is likely to be a satisfactory one, persuade the grand-parents to make a home for the child.

(4) That the expectant mother should be advised on suitable accommodation before and immediately after confinement, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

(5) That the mother should be assisted to obtain an affiliation order or otherwise to secure assistance from the father of the child ; if the mother so desires, the assistance of the Probation Officer to be sought.

(6) That the mother shall be assisted to find employment, preferably with her baby, in an institution or in private employment ; in this connection the assistance of the appropriate officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to be enlisted at an early stage.

(7) That if a home cannot be found for the baby with the mother's relatives, lodgings for the mother and baby should be sought when she desires non-resident work, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

(8) That a suitable foster mother should be sought if it is necessary for the mother and baby to be separated, the Welfare Authority undertaking to give financial assistance towards the cost.

(9) That places should be sought in a residential nursery or home for babies whose mothers cannot look after them and for whom accommodation cannot be found by other means, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.

(10) That in special cases, e.g., where the mother is very young or is the wife of a man not the father of the child, every help should be given to the mother in regard to legal adoption.

(11) That the advice given should be followed up and every effort made to ensure that the baby is kept under observation at the Child Welfare Centre until the Education Authority or other body or person appointed by the Court to act in connection with adoption proceedings takes the case in hand.

(12) That any cases in which difficulties arise or special action is required, be referred to the County Medical Officer for consultation and, if necessary, special investigation.

(13) That to facilitate early supervision and assistance, Health Visitors, Midwives, Probation Officers, Moral Welfare Workers and others who may be concerned, should notify the County Medical Officer of cases in the County Welfare area, or the respective Medical Officers of Health of cases in autonomous welfare areas, of any unmarried pregnant woman or girl who is known to need or is likely to need help, in order that steps to care for her during pregnancy and arrangements for her and the child after birth can be co-ordinated.

(14) That autonomous welfare authorities be recommended to take action on the same lines as the County Council particularly as regards the granting of financial assistance to voluntary bodies under paragraphs (4), (7) and (9).

(15) That the County Council do immediately endeavour to obtain premises suitable for adaptation as a residential nursery to which children could be admitted as soon as the mothers are able to return to work, this establishment to be available for the reception of children from the autonomous welfare areas upon their agreeing to bear in respect of such cases the ascertained weekly cost of maintenance.

(16) That pending exploration of the possibility of the establishment as a permanent part of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of a post-natal Hostel in which mothers and children could be accommodated during the period between discharge from hospital and fitness for employment, negotiations be opened by the County Council with the Ministry of Health for the admission of these cases, both from the County and autonomous welfare areas, to a post-natal Hostel expected

to be established by the County Council on behalf of the Ministry under the Government Evacuation Scheme, the cost of maintenance to be borne by the responsible Welfare Authority at such rates as the Ministry may decide. The average duration of stay of the mother and child in such a Hostel should be three months. If and when a similar post-natal Hostel is established by the County Council as part of its welfare scheme, autonomous authorities to be permitted to make use thereof on a cost of maintenance basis.

SECTION 206 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936. NURSING OF CHILDREN FOR REWARD.

The Health Visitor visits the children regularly and keeps the requisite register. At present there are two names on the register. All the homes have been found satisfactory.

WAR TIME NURSERY “ Woodfield,” 135, London Road, Northfleet.

Since the opening of the Nursery in 1942, 23,655 attendances were made by the children.

The following is a complete list of infectious diseases and age groups :—

Infectious Diseases—1942.

	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-5	No. of cases.
Whooping Cough	6	6	—	5	17
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Infections of skin	—	1	1	—	2
Mumps	—	—	—	1	1

Infectious Disease—1943.

Whooping cough	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	1	2	1	1	5
German Measles	2	7	10	5	24
Infections of skin	1	3	5	1	10
Mumps	—	—	1	2	3

Infectious Diseases—1944.

Whooping cough	—	—	9	5	14
Measles	—	2	1	1	4
Infections of skin	—	2	3	5	10
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	1	1
Enteritis	1 case—test negative.				

The skin infections in the Nursery were due, in most cases, to lack of care at home.

Enteritis—no cases were reported. One specimen of faeces was submitted to the County Laboratory and was negative to Dysentery.

The only cases of infectious disease amongst the staff were one Catarrhal Jaundice (Probationer), one German Measles (Probationer) and one Measles (Domestic).

The effect of Nursery life on the children was obviously excellent from every angle—especially in the case of the only child.

Children of all ages were admitted—the youngest being two babies (one month old).

From the training angle it is suggested that all ages be admitted ; on the other hand from the mother's point of view, we think it advisable that children under two years of age should be excluded.

Trained people should be in charge and, from my own personal experience, I find that young probationers of 14 years are very good, they should have little domestic work to do as they are inclined to get rather tired having, in particular, more laundry to undertake in the Nursery.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Bow Arrow Hospital provide ambulances for the removal of infectious disease cases to hospital. St. John Ambulance Brigade provide an ambulance for accidents and general purposes. The Bow Arrow Service is most satisfactory, but I do not consider that the existing St. John Ambulance Brigade is completely adequate to meet the needs of the area.

1. Only one paid driver available—working day shift from 8 a.m.—6 p.m.
2. The Brigade have to depend on volunteers to cover nights, etc.
3. No proper H.Q. for ambulance and staff.
4. No sitting case cars available.
5. Difficulty of providing female attendants for maternity cases, etc.

RELIEVING OFFICER.

Miss K. C. CASEY, Council Offices, Northfleet.
Telephone—Gravesend 1274. (Home 4153).

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS AND VACCINATION OFFICER.

D. A. GOUGH, 36, Springhead Road, Northfleet.
Mondays 2—4 p.m.
Fridays 5—6 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

West Kent House, 5, Station Road, Northfleet.
General Clinic—Saturdays at 9.30 a.m.

Cases of defective teeth, and vision and diseases or defects of the nose and throat, attend by appointment.

MENTAL WELFARE.

Information on matters of mental welfare can be obtained from the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare, 70, King Street, Maidstone (Telephone 3889).

BLIND PERSONS.

Information on matters affecting the blind, or those threatened with blindness, can be obtained from the Secretary of the Kent County Association for the Blind, 15, Ashford Road, Maidstone (Telephone 3717).

HOSPITALS.

Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend.—Serves the District, and contains 112 beds and 9 cots.

Day and Time of Attendance for Registration at Out-Patient Department.

GRAVESEND AND NORTH KENT HOSPITAL.

TIME-TABLE

MONDAY

11.0 a.m. Traumatic Clinic (Mr. M. Landau)
 11.30 a.m. Ear, Nose and Throat (Mr. C. G. E. Plumstead)

TUESDAY

11.30 a.m. Surgical Out-Patients and Varicose Veins (Mr. K. W. D. Hartley)
 2.0 p.m. Ante-Natal (Mr. F. S. Horrocks)
 2.30 p.m. Gynaecological (Mr. F. S. Horrocks)

WEDNESDAY

9.30 a.m. Fracture Clinic (Mr. M. Landau)
 1.0 p.m. K.C.C. Chest Clinic (Dr. B. A. Butterworth)

THURSDAY

9.0 a.m. Ophthalmic (Mr. W. E. Heath)

FRIDAY

9.0 a.m. Dental (Mr. A. L. Wright)
 9.30 a.m. Fracture Clinic (Mr. M. Landau)
 10.30 a.m. Alternate Orthopaedic (Mr. J. S. Batchelor)
 12.0 noon Electro-Medical (Mr. K. W. D. Hartley)
 2.0 p.m. C.O. 2.

SATURDAY

11.0 a.m. Medical Out-patients (Dr. J. Crawford)

School Medical Services.

Minor ailments	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.	Saturdays at 9.30 a.m.
Dental	No fixed clinics. Temporary clinics are arranged as occasion demands.	
Ophthalmic	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.	Thursdays at 1.30 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

13, New Road, Rochester	Tuesdays 2-3 p.m.	Fridays, 9.30—10.30 a.m.
Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend.	Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.	

Venereal Diseases.

36, New Road, Rochester	Tuesdays 1.30—5.30 p.m.
	Thursdays 11.0 a.m.—1.0 p.m.
22, Cobham Street, Gravesend	MEN—Tuesday 11.0 a.m.—1.0 p.m. Thursdays, 2.0 p.m.—4.0 p.m.

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending the Rochester and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from the Northfleet Urban District :—

Syphilis.....6	Gonorrhoea.....2
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Minor Ailments Clinic.

Number of attendances by children under 5 years	938
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following temporary arrangements have been made for the reception and treatment of cases of infectious diseases :—

Smallpox to Dislingbury Hospital, (Tel. Maidstone 4321).

Other cases to Dartford (Bow Arrow) Isolation Hospital (Tel. Dartford 3369).

Scarlet Fever.

Cases notified	17
Cases removed to Hospital	1
Percentage of cases removed	5.8

Diphtheria.

Cases notified	3
Cases removed to Hospital	3
Percentage of cases removed	100.0

Enteric Fever.

Cases notified	Nil.
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Tuberculosis.

Cases notified—	M.	F.	Total
Pul.	15	10	25
Non-Pul.	4	—	4

Sonne Dysentery.

Cases notified	1
Cases removed to Hospital	Nil.

Deaths—

Pul.	6	3	9
Non-Pul.	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.

Statement of particulars appearing on the register of notifications of cases of Tuberculosis for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pul. and Non-Pul. Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(a) No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year	61	41	102	12	12	24	126
(b) No. of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year	67	46	113	15	14	29	142

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Clinics are held daily at the Council Offices from 10-11 a.m. and twice weekly at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic in the afternoons from 3-4 p.m.

PRESENT POSITION.

	Under 5 years.	Between 5 and 15 years.
Percentage immunised	48.0	72.0
Total number of children immunised (Estimated)	672	2083

Scabies.

During the year treatment for persons suffering from Scabies was provided at Brookvale Depot and 149 persons and contacts were treated, 4 cases were treated at their homes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Reports received on samples taken from various taps on the Gravesend and Milton Water Works Co. supply to the area.

Date of Samples 1944.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at		Remarks.
	37°C.	22°C.	
5th January	0	0	Good Waters
	0	0	„ „
26th January	0	0	„ „
	0	0	„ „
23rd February	0	2	„ „
	0	0	„ „
29th March	0	0	„ „
	0	0	„ „
26th April	0	0	„ „
	0	0	„ „
24th May	1	1	„ „
	0	0	„ „
28th June	1	0	„ „
	0	0	„ „
26th July	0	0	„ „
	0	0	„ „
23rd August	0	0	„ „
27th September	0	0	„ „
	0	3	„ „
1st November	0	0	„ „
	0	0	„ „
29th November	0	0	„ „
	0	3	„ „

Proportion of dwelling houses and population supplied from Public Water Mains :—

Direct to houses 99%.

By means of standpipe 1%.

The supply is sufficient and satisfactory in every way. No Plumbo-solvent action.

GRAVESEND AND MILTON WATERWORKS COMPANY.

Report on two samples of water received November 17th, 1944.

Samples contained in bottles supplied from here labelled :—

No. 1. “ Gravesend Well, Gravesend.”

No. 2. “ Meopham Well, Meopham.”

Both waters were, chemically and bacteriologically, of the highest possible purity.

Analytical Details.

	I.	II.
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Smell	None	None
Deposit	None	None
Hardness before boiling	22 $\frac{3}{4}$ Clark	20 Clark
Hardness after boiling	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	4
Colour of residue	White	White
Behaviour on ignition	Darkens scarcely perceptibly	Does not darken

Grains per gallon

Total dry residue	34.16	25.20
Oxygen absorbed	0.007	0.004
Chlorine	2.03	1.26
Nitric Acid	3.91	1.33
Ammonia	0.0000	0.0000
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0000	0.0000

Bacteriological Examination.

Growing on gelatine per c.c.	0	8
Liquefiers	0	8
B. Coli	Absent in 76 c.c.	Absent in 76 c.c.

CIRCULAR 2831—PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS, GOOD HABITS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Part of the Council's depot at Brook Vale was adapted for the cleansing of verminous persons. Lethane is used in cases of infestation of head. Two members of the Council Staff were trained for the purpose and treatment is carried out under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor.

All children in its area are inspected and examined at regular intervals by the Council's staff and cases requiring treatment are referred to the Centre.

Talks on the subject are given periodically.

Clothing is disinfested by steam disinfector whilst children are undergoing treatment.

During 1944 153 persons were treated.

Persons requiring institutional treatment are conveyed to the Kent County Hospitals.

SEWER EXTENSION.

A sewer extension has been laid by the Military Authorities from Gravesend to the Toll Gate. It is a "private sewer," 6" in diameter and was constructed to replace a small Sewage Disposal Works which was alleged to be a potential source of contamination of the water shed of the Gravesend and Milton Water Company.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

All milkshops, dairies, bakehouses and workshops were visited at least twice a year by the Sanitary Inspectors and myself.

MILK SUPPLY

Thirty-one samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, three of which were reported unsatisfactory. Visits were made to the dairies concerned and suggestions put forward for improving the quality of the milk.

Nine samples of milk as supplied to schools were taken. These proved to be satisfactory.

Milk retailed locally is produced in other districts.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

This Act is administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr. W. A. Elkington, County Inspector, Dartford, for the following particulars of samples taken in the district during the year:—

Description of sample.	Samples taken.			Result.
Milk	27			Genuine
Jam	2			"
Apple Rings	1			"
Castor Sugar	2			"
Camphorated Oil	4			"
Wheat Flakes	1			"
Honey	1			"
Aspirin Tablets	1			"
Cake Mixture	1			"
Paste	1			"
Cocoa	1			"
Marmalade	1			"
Semolina	1			"
Spice	1			"
Rice	1			"
Sausages	3			"
Condensed Milk	2			"
Flour	1			"
Curry Powder	1			"
Ginger Mixture	1			"
Butter	1			"
Oats	3			"
Pickles	1			"
Sauce	1			"
Lard	2			"
Sardines	1			"
Almond Essence	1			"
Soup Powder	1			"
Gelatine	1			"
Pudding Mixture	2			"

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Articles condemned.	Amount.
Tinned Meat	42½ lbs.
„ Milk	69 tins.
„ Beans and Peas	17 tins.
„ Fish	29 tins.
Jam and Marmalade	26 lbs.
Chocolate	6 lbs.
Fish	1½ lbs.
Cheese	5 lbs.
Butter	6½ lbs.
Pork Sausage Meat	7½ lbs.
Smoked bacon	53 lbs.
Beef	28½ lbs.
Lamb	4 lbs.
Pork	1 lb.

SEWAGE.

Frequent samples of sewage effluent from the works are submitted to the County Analyst, and the following table shows the results expressed in parts per 100,000.

No. of sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Date of sample	2/2/44	8/3/44	11/4/44	24/5/44	28/7/44	23/8/44	4/10/44	25/10/44	6/12/44
Nature of sample	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent
Total dissolved solids	111.00	112.5	91.00	121.0	90.00	83.0	87.0	81.0	96.50
Total suspended solids	10.75	2.0	4.0	13.5	6.75	2.0	2.5	1.5	3.00
Organic suspended solids	8.00	1.0	2.75	7.75	4.50	1.5	2.0	1.25	2.50
Chlorine	22.4	25.8	16.0	20.3	18.9	17.5	18.2	15.7	20.3
Free ammonia	1.836	4.42	3.20	1.020	3.47	2.244	2.44	2.72	2.72
Albuminoid ammonia	0.612	0.48	0.27	0.408	0.54	0.408	1.22	0.48	0.41
Oxygen absorbed									
(acid permanganate) $\frac{1}{4}$ hour	0.52	1.447	1.502	0.744	0.68	0.642	0.661	0.630	0.837
Oxygen absorbed									
(acid permanganate) 4 hours	1.20	2.566	2.94	1.544	1.55	1.364	1.209	1.206	1.629
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5	1.67	2.5	7.1	1.4	2.0	3.3	2.5	2.5
Nitrogen as nitrites	present	present	present	trace	trace	present	present	present	present
Dissolved oxygen requirement	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
in five days	5	7	5	2.84	4	2.555	1.16	6	5

REMARKS:—

- Sample No. 1. The quality of the effluent is satisfactory.
- The effluent was of good quality and suitable for discharge.
- In my opinion, the effluent is fit for discharge.
- The effluent is suitable for discharge.
- The effluent is suitable for discharge.
- The quality of the effluent is satisfactory.
- The effluent was of good quality.
- According to the Port of London standard, the quality of the effluent was good.
- The effluent was fit for discharge.

HOUSING.

An acute housing shortage exists in the District. Some 1,007 applications are now held on the waiting list for Council houses, of which number 50% represent persons who do not live in separate dwellings.

The structural condition of the working class houses is deteriorating rapidly due to lack of normal maintenance repair brought about by war-time restrictions of labour and materials. Attention is drawn to the lack of sufficient building operatives in the District to ensure that houses are kept in habitable repair. It is suggested that the repair of houses should be given the same priority of materials and labour as will the erection of new houses.

Post-war Housing Plans.

The Council's rebuilding programme for the first two years comprises the provision of approximately 400 permanent and 50 temporary dwellings. A survey of the District is being conducted to ascertain the condition of houses as related to slum clearance and abatement of overcrowding, the results of such survey to be the basis of a future report.

For details of inspections see Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC FOR THE YEAR 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I have to inform you that the services you have provided for the welfare of the young children of the District have been fully utilised and proved to be most successful.

During the year 447 babies attended the Clinic—while the total attendances for the year amounted to 6,675.

I think these figures may be considered excellent. In association with the Food Office we are continuing to distribute Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and other requisites as well as various food products.

This enables us to exert a certain amount of supervision and the Health Visitor to contact those mothers and babies who are desirous of obtaining the Food Products which we distribute.

We continue to hold three clinics weekly, two at the Council Offices, and one at Perry Street.

In addition to these a Clinic is held once a month at Istead Rise, to meet the needs of the outlying district.

We are fortunate in being able to secure the parents' consent in most cases regarding Diphtheria Immunization, and with very few exceptions all the children attending are immunized on reaching the age of one year. With immunization at its present rate, and the prospects of more housing accommodation, Diphtheria, I hope will be a rarity in this area.

I record with great pleasure the help I receive from Miss Martin, our Health Visitor. She has put in a very excellent year's work as you will see from her report.

The contacts the Nurse makes in the homes immediately the midwives have ceased attendance largely makes or mars a child welfare service.

Likewise I would record my appreciation of the help received from the ladies of the Committee, and in this connection I am sorry to record the retirement of Mrs. Huntley, who was a member of the original committee and who has been a most faithful attendant.

During the year in review, 40 expectant mothers visited the Ante-natal Clinic.

This Clinic continues to be held one day each week and the members attending are gradually increasing.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH VISITOR FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting the report for 1944, I have to call attention to the fact that I was not appointed until 1st September, 1944. Numbers of visits, etc., covered by Mrs. Watson, acting as Health Visitor, have been obtained from her monthly reports.

Infant Welfare.

Number of live births recorded	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	338
Number of still births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Ante-Natal Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Babies 0—1 year (First visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	351
„ 0—1 „ (Subsequent visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	616
„ 1—5 years (Routine visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	706
„ 1—5 „ (Special visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	110
Miscellaneous visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	514

Infant Welfare Centre.

The attendances at the Welfare Clinics are covered by the Medical Officer of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in his report.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Contact is still being maintained with the County Midwives regarding this service. Additional publicity is now being made by the display of posters.

Foster Children.

One Foster child remained on the register at the end of the year.

Adoption of Children.

Two children have been notified under this Act.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Leaflets are available at all Clinics urging parents to have their children immunised, and every opportunity is taken to encourage mothers to take advantage of this service.

Ladies' Committee.

Thanks are due to these ladies for their attendance at the Welfare Centres.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

EDITH L. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1944.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking other members of the staff for their co-operation and assistance.

Infection and Disinfection.

During the year 68 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, viz :—

Scarlet Fever	.....	17
Tuberculosis	.....	29
Diphtheria	.....	3
Other diseases	.....	4
		—
		53
		—

During the year 34 houses were disinfected and 3 premises disinfested.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 25 persons and premises registered for the carrying on of such business, viz :—

Dairymen	.....	2
Milkshops (bottle milk only)	.....	20
Sterilised milk (wholesale)	.....	3

Designated Milk.

Two dairymen are licensed to sell “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk, one to bottle same and three to sell “ Pasteurised ” milk.

Bakehouses.

Eleven visits were made to the six bakehouses on the register ; limewashing is carried out regularly and I am pleased to report that the general cleanliness is good.

Other Inspections.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919	.....	83 visits.
Stables	.....	3 inspections.
Shops Act	.....	127 inspections.
Drain testing	.....	5 tests.
		108 other inspections.
Public Health Act, 1936	.....	154 Preliminary Notices served.
		114 Preliminary Notices complied with
		19 Statutory Notices served.
		18 Statutory Notices complied with.
Housing Act, 1936	.....	49 visits.
		— houses rendered fit.

In addition 33 nuisances were abated upon verbal requests to the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned.

Factory Act 1937

One Statutory Notice under this Act was served, requiring extra sanitary accommodation. This was complied with.

A verbal notice was given to one large factory to provide doors to their W.C.'s, and this was carried out, and also in one small place verbal notice to cleanse and repair W.C. compartment was complied with.

A total of 3,306 visits and inspections were made, 194 being for A.R.P. purposes.

Refuse Collection.

Although the labour problems in this specific branch were generally difficult throughout the country as a whole, the weekly service in the urban part of the district was maintained and the fortnightly collection made in the more rural section. In all 5,425 tons of refuse was collected and disposed of by means of controlled tipping.

Street Cleansing.

This service was maintained to practically its normal level, although it was found necessary at times to withdraw labour to assist with the refuse collection.

Gully and Cesspool Emptying.

This service was carried on adequately throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. COWPLAND,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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